

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 073070

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BELEM 033 ACTION SECSTATE INFO

BRASILIA MEXICO DTD 31 MAR

QTE

UNCLAS BELEM 0033

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, BR

SUBJECT: CONFISCATION OF CATCH OF U.S. SHRIMP VESSELS "YOUNG'S"
AND "TINA MARIE".

REF: BELEM 026, 027, 028, 031.

MEXICO FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

1. OFFICIALS OF PROPESCA IN BELEM INFORMED CONSUL THAT WHILE
PREPARING RELEASED U.S. SHRIMP VESSELS "TINA MARIE" AND
"YOONG'S" TO SAIL WITH MIDNIGHT TIDE (MARCH 27-28), THEY
DISCOVERED THAT CATCH OF 1.85 TONS SHRIMP HAD BEEN CONFISCATED.

2. NAVY OFFICIALS CONFIRMED THAT SUDENE (BRAZILIAN FEDERAL GOVERN-
MENT AGENCY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY) HAD
ORDERED CONFISCATION BUT THAT MORE DETAILS WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE
UNTIL MONDAY MARCH 31, BECAUSE OF EASTER WEEKEND HOLIDAYS.
SUDEPE OFFICIALS REPORT THAT THEY WILL SEND DOCUMENTS TO NAVY ON
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PAGE 02 STATE 073070

MARCH 31, AND AFTER RECEIVING DOCUMENTS NAVY WILL OFFICIALLY

INFORM CONSUL OF CONFISCATION OF CATCH.

3. CONFISCATION OF CATCH MAY BE CHANGE OF GOB POLICY WITH REGARD TO CAPTURED SHRIMP BOATS. ALL U.S. VESSELS APPREHENDED LAST YEAR FOR VIOLATION OF SHRIMP AGREEMENT ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME PORT WITH CATCH AFTER PAYMENT OF FINE. ONLY CATCH KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED LAST YEAR WAS CATCH OF FRENCH BOAT WHOSE OWNERS UNABLE TO PAY FINE. NAVY STILL HOLDING FRENCH BOAT AND SUDEPE STILL HOLDING CATCH AT REFRIGERATION FACILITIES OF LOCAL FISHING COMPANY (PINA LTDA).

4. HOWEVER, CONSUL HEARD UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OVER WEEKEND THAT NAVY ENLISTED PERSONNEL AT NAVY BASE WHERE SHIMP BOATS WERE HELD AND CREWS OF U.S. VESSELS ENGAGED IN MUTUALLY PROFITABLE ILLEGAL TRADE IN SHRIMP DURING CONFINEMENT OF VESSELS. WHEN TRADE COME TO ATTENTION OF NAVY OFFICERS, A NUMBER OF NCO'S REPORTEDLY PUT IN BRIG FOR TEN DAYS, AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER SUDEPE CONFISCATED CATCH. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS CONFISCATION MAY HAVE BEEN TO STOP CREWS OF U.S. VESSELS FROM ILLEGALLY SELLING THEIR CATCH IN BELEM DURING DETENTION OF BOATS.

5. WILL REPORT FULL DETAILS OF CONFISCATION AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE

6. COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS SIGNED AT RELEASE OF BOATS BEING POUCHED TO BRASILIA TODAY.
JACOBINI UNQTE KISSINGER

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